

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
DISABILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, April 5, 2021**

A meeting of the Disability Advisory Board of the Township of Lower Makefield was held via zoom on March 1, 2021. Chairperson Huchler opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Those present:

Lisa Huchler, Chairperson

David Mann, Vice Chairperson

Trish O'Donnell, Secretary

David Rogers, Member

Lynne Catarro, Member

Dr. Fred Weiss, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2021 MINUTES

Mr. Mann moved, Mr. Rogers seconded, and the March 1, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved.

COMMUNITY CENTER DOORS

Bids are being sent out for the installation of new automated doors at the Community Center.

Ms. Huchler and Mr. Rogers visited the community center to evaluate the doors for implementation of automatic door openers. Due to the configuration of the entrance, (one set of double doors, a vestibule and a second set of double doors) only one door at a time will be activated (outward) via a push button placed on the adjacent outside wall. Mr. Rogers stated, once inside the first set of doors the most feasible way to open the second set of doors is via an "electric eye". Mr. Rogers noted that having both sets of doors open at the same time is not ideal due to heat loss, etc.

Ms. Huchler will coordinate with Ms. Tierney and engineers to review the final plans, once received from selected vendor, to determine the most efficient way to open the inside door.

SECRET GARDEN SHADE PROJECT

Ms. Huchler asked Ms. Tierney for an update on the Eagle Scout Project of placing shade sails in the playground. As of this date there is nothing new regarding this project. The DAB looks forward to helping and supporting the scout in his project.

UPDATES ON BUILDING PLANS

Prickett Preserve

Once approved by the Board of Supervisors, Mr. Rogers will obtain the detailed blueprints and review all ADA design plans.

Big Oak Day Care Center

Appears to be close to opening. Ms. Huchler asked if the DAB should go over to look at the site since we did not review the preliminary plans. Mr. Rogers will consider looking at the access and parking to ensure compliance with ADA.

Heston Hall

Ms. Huchler forwarded information from the 2020 Planning Commission summary and current agenda to Mr. Rogers. This is a recap of all ongoing projects in the township and is helpful to the DAB to make sure we have reviewed current projects. There was information regarding changes being made to Heston hall. Mr. Rogers stated there are “configuration” changes planned and he will keep an eye out for the entrance and egress.

Mr. Mann stated that on prior visits to Heston Hall the first floor is accessible. Mr. Rogers stated because Heston Hall is in the Edgewood historic zone they would not have to comply with ADA compliance unless there are very significant building changes.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADA TRANSITION PLAN

As part of the Parks and Rec accreditation application process, the DAB has been assisting with the creation of an ADA Transition plan. This is a comprehensive plan to address the issues such as accessibility of all recreational spaces in LMT and identify barriers that may exist for people with disabilities. Ms. Tierney provided a list of all facilities and each DAB member created an excel document with recommendations presented to the Parks and Rec Department for the ADA Transition part of the accreditation process. We have focused on the removal of structural barriers to provide access to programs and services offered to the public.

Members of the DAB reviewed the final ADA Transition Plan that had already been approved and recommended to the BOS by the Parks and Rec Board. No further comments or changes were deemed necessary.

Ms. Huchler made a motion for the DAB to approve the ADA Transition Plan and recommend to the BOS for approval, Ms. Catarro seconded and unanimously approved.

PARKS AND RECREATION ADA TRANSITION PLAN (continued)

Ms. Huchler will inform Monica Tierney that the plan has been approved and can be placed on the LMT BOS agenda for a future meeting. Dr. Weiss suggested it would probably be placed on the first meeting of the BOS in May 2021.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND REMINDERS

Ms. Caterro gave an update to the Community Participation Supports Services:

The Adult Programs and Services at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit are proud to announce that in addition to the Supported Employment Services they can provide through the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Office of Developmental Programs, they are now adding Community Participation Supports.

Per the BCIU:

“In our Community Participation Support Program, we work to enhance the ability of the participant to lead a self-determining life by providing the support and information necessary to build self-esteem, and assertiveness; and to make decisions. We assist and/or facilitate the development of an individualized plan based on participant preferences, needs, and interests. Our focus is to match specific supports and interventions to the unique needs of individual participants and recognize the importance of friends, family, and community relationships. We assist the participant to meet physical (i.e. health, grooming, toileting, eating) and personal management needs (i.e. human development, human sexuality), by teaching skills, providing supports, and building on individual strengths and capabilities. We explore with the participant, his/her vocational interests and aptitudes which allows us to prepare for job entry, and review opportunities for continued career growth. We stress the importance of community involvement, social interactions, and maintaining relationships we develop and facilitate community connections and relationships to coordinate activities.”

For more eligibility information, the Bucks IU is happy to assist you. Contact the Bucks IU Adult Programs and Services team at 215-348-2940 Ext. 1330, or email AdultPrograms@BucksIU.org. The Bucks IU’s Adult Programs and Services are offered in accordance with the Office of Development Programs (ODP) and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR).

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Catarro reviewed LMT web page and found the information was outdated and many links inoperable. In particular, the tax information was dated 2008. Ms. Huchler suggested deleting the tax info and suggested directing people directly to Bucks County/Doylestown website for specific information regarding general info such as tax, transportation, and other resources..

Disability resources links does not work and Center for Independent living is a “Go Daddy” page. Mr. Rogers will check with Bucks County Center for Independent Living to update the link so that it goes directly to them.

Ms. Huchler will forward the template for DAB brochure to Ms. Catarro for updating, and distribute to all members for comments prior to the next DAB meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Caterro moved, Mr. Rogers seconded and the motion to adjourn unanimously approved.

Next meeting to be held in May. Exact date, time and place to be determined.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Trish O’Donnell
Secretary, Disability Advisory Board